

Request for Applications
EPA Region 10 FY 2007 Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Projects

Agency Name: US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10.

Funding Opportunity Title: Request for Applications for Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Projects

Announcement Type: Initial Request for Applications

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R10-AKTMM-2007

Catalog of Financial Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers and Titles:

66.034 Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Activities
Relating to the Clean Air Act.

66.424 Surveys, Studies, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Grants - Section 1442 of
the Safe Drinking Water Act.

66.436 Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Training Grants and
Cooperative Agreements - Section 104(B)(3) of the Clean Water Act.

66.808 Solid Waste Management Assistance Grants

Funding Amount: Approximately \$578,000

Important Dates:

Request for Applications posted on web and synopzied on Grants.gov.....April 2, 2007

Application received in EPA's Anchorage Operations Office,
or submitted electronically via Grants.gov May 16, 2007

Anticipated award of Agreementon or before September 30, 2007

Project commencement on or around October 1, 2007

Overview

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting applications for **FY 2007 Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Projects** that will demonstrate approaches for enhancing the human health or the environment of Tribal communities in rural Alaska. Projects that demonstrate new approaches to providing safe drinking water; projects that advance the state of knowledge or transfer information on the use of integrated solid waste management systems to solve local waste management and generation problems; projects that take an innovative approach or utilize an experimental technology to advance waste management programs, including recycling and the reduction of wastes; projects that provide education, training, and outreach materials to teach Alaska native villages about waste's impact on resource, energy use, and pollution; innovative solid waste demonstration projects that involve dissemination of information to others so that they can benefit from the knowledge gained; projects that involve learning, teaching, or discovery on improving sanitation to reduce human contact with waste; reducing human exposure to harmful air pollution such as fine particulates, and protecting subsistence resources from contamination all are eligible as long as projects are likely to reduce risks to Tribal members' health or the Tribal members' environment in rural Alaska and are within limitations and requirements of the statutory authority on which the project is based. Projects should include gathering or transferring of information, or advancing the state of knowledge. Projects should involve new, innovative or experimental methods, approaches or technologies and include plans for disseminating the results so that Tribal members and others can benefit from the knowledge gained. In order for a project to be considered a 'demonstration,' it must be innovative, must show off new, largely untested processes or products, or tried and true processes newly adapted to a particular use. A demonstration of well-known and widely used ideas or processes will not qualify as a demonstration.

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Request for Applications EPA Region 10 FY 2007 Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Projects

Full Text of Announcement

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Background and Purpose and Summary

This funding provides an opportunity to improve environmental protection for Tribes in rural Alaska. Most of the 230 Federally-recognized Tribal governments in Alaska are located in isolated rural villages. Tribal members rely on subsistence resources for survival. Alaska Tribes located in remote village locations, have no or very limited access to environmental protection resources, funding, and programs, except what Tribes themselves provide. Projects will be selected based on their potential to ameliorate conditions adverse to Tribal health and the Tribal environment.

B. Statutory Authorities and Corresponding CFDA Numbers

Depending on the nature of the project, one of the following statutory authorities and Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers will be assigned to successful recipient:

- Clean Air Act of 1963, Section 103 [CFDA 66.034]
- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Section 1442 [CFDA 66.424]
- Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3) [CFDA 66.436]
- Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001, as amended; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended; Public Law 94 580 U.S.C. et seq. Amending laws for SDWA and RCRA: Public Law 98-616, Public Law 99-339, Public Law 99-499 [CFDA 66.808]

C. Alignment with EPA's Strategic Plan

All proposals must support Goal 4 and Goal 5 of the EPA's Strategic Plan. Under Goal 4, Objective 4.2 EPA seeks to "*Sustain, clean up, and restore communities and the ecological systems that support them.*" Under Goal 5, Objective 5.3, EPA seeks to "*Improve human health and the environment in Indian Country, protect human health and the environment on Tribal lands by assisting Tribes to build environmental management capacity, assess environmental conditions and measure results, and implement environmental programs in Indian Country* (http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2006/goal_5.pdf). These goals and objectives encompass a wide range of environmental issues relating to human and/or ecosystem health. Proposals must utilize one or more of the following approaches:

- Projects must be for the benefit of Tribal communities in rural Alaska, and contribute to the long term sustainability of those communities.
- Projects must build tribal capacity to reduce human health risks or environmental degradation in the Tribal communities of rural Alaska.

More information about EPA's Strategic Plan can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm>

D. Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: projects that demonstrate new approaches to providing safe drinking water; projects that advance the state of knowledge or transfer information on the use of integrated solid waste management systems to solve local waste management and generation problems; projects that take an innovative approach or utilize an experimental technology to advance waste management programs, including recycling and the reduction of wastes; projects that provide education, training, and outreach materials to teach the community about waste's impact on resource, energy use, and pollution; innovative solid waste demonstration projects that involve dissemination of information to others so that they can benefit from the knowledge gained; projects that involve learning, teaching, or discovery on improving sanitation to reduce human contact with waste; protecting drinking water supplies and providing safe drinking water (except routine monitoring of a public water system), improving sanitation to reduce human contact with waste, reducing human exposure to harmful air pollution such as fine particulates, protecting subsistence resources from contamination, and 'demonstration' projects for backhaul or removal of waste, which take a sustainable approach.

Projects should involve new, innovative or experimental methods, approaches or technologies and include plans for disseminating the results so that Tribal members and others can benefit from the knowledge gained. Projects should include gathering or transferring of information or advancing the state of knowledge. Project methods and approach should be culturally-appropriate.

For ineligible expenses, please see Section I.F.

E. Measuring Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes

EPA requires that all grant recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature, and in how they are measured.

Outputs: The term "output" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.

Examples illustrating some of the types of outputs that are expected of projects selected under this request include:

- Manual outlining best management practice for safe sanitation management practices for villages without piped sanitation systems (i.e. “honey-bucket” communities)
- Guide for safe drinking water storage and management practice for households with or without piped drinking water
- Form Governmental partnerships to focus on improved solid waste management
- Plan developed for transfer of solid and hazardous wastes from communities to properly managed sites
- Innovative pollution prevention activities such as reduction of waste, segregation, or recycling solid wastes

These examples are intended to illustrate, not limit, appropriate types of outputs.

Outcomes: The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

- **Short term outcomes** such as increased awareness of human health or environmental risk associated with problem, or change in behavior resulting from the knowledge gained.
- **Medium term outcomes** such as skills gained through training or project implementation used by technical staff, tribal representatives, or community members in the environment to improve conditions.
- **Long term outcomes** such as quality of life are improved pertaining to the environmental conditions affecting community members or impacting the environment.

Examples illustrating some of the types of outcomes that are expected of projects selected under this request include:

- Improve sanitation practices (e.g. reduce the number of points of contact with human waste in the collection and proper disposal of the waste)
- Improve quality of drinking water (e.g. reduce number of self-reports such as complaints to environmental office, doctor visits on record, school absences, records of incidence of diarrhea, or other intestinal water borne gastrointestinal disease; or review record of routine monitoring to see improvements in water quality)

- Increased knowledge of the dangers and sources of fine particulates and actions that can be taken to reduce exposure (e.g., pre- and post-project measurement of change in knowledge or behavior.)
- Change in community behavior toward waste reduction, segregation, and recycling that results in less solid or hazardous waste in the community.
- Increase in community members' behaviors that enhance safe drinking water transfer, storage and handling in households without piped water and sanitation (e.g., pre- and post- project measurement of change in knowledge or behavior.)

These examples are intended to illustrate, **not limit**, appropriate types of outcomes. Additional examples can be found at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/webpage/measuring+environmental+results>

This site also provides useful information about the Logic Model, a useful tool for project planning to achieve results.

F. Ineligible Expenses

Proposals requesting funds for the following expenses will not be considered:

1. Capital construction costs of new water treatment and distribution facilities
2. Routine monitoring of a public water system
3. Heavy equipment such as bull dozers and front-end loaders
4. Bulk fuel purchase (for power generation)
5. Resolution of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) debt
6. Any element of construction, including construction or maintenance of roads and ports (with the exception of road dust control technologies)
7. Any acquisition of land or interest in land or any subsidy for the price of recovered resources.

G. Applicable Statutory Authority and Corresponding Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers.

R10 Alaska Tribal Multi Media Project awards will use multiple statutory authorities depending on the nature of the selected projects. (Please refer back to Section I.B.) The Region will determine which funding authority and which corresponding CFDA number is appropriate for your project proposal. Additional information on the CFDA can be found online at <http://www.cfda.gov>.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Amount of Funding Available

EPA anticipates approximately \$578,000 will be available for such projects. Actual individual award amounts will be contingent on agency budget, and based on total funds available. Anticipated number of awards may range from three to seven.

For a first year project, new applicants should request no less than \$15,000 but no more than \$250,000 in project funding. The typical project is expected to be funded at the \$50,000 level.

B. Funding Type

The funding types for selected projects will be in the form of either a grant or cooperative agreement. EPA will determine the appropriate form of Agreement upon selection. A cooperative agreement is an assistance agreement that is used when there is substantial federal involvement with the recipient during the performance of an activity or project. Substantial involvement will be discussed after awards are made for cooperative agreements. EPA will award cooperative agreements for those projects in which it expects to have substantial technical interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. For such projects, EPA may review and approve project phases, in accordance with 40 CFR 31.36(g) review of proposed procurements, collaborate with the recipient on the scope of work and mode of operation of the project, closely monitor the recipient's performance, approve any proposed changes to work plan and/or budget, approve qualifications of key personnel or trainers, and review and comment on reports prepared under the assistance agreement.

C. Start Date/Project Duration

All projects should have an anticipated start date of October 1, 2007. Project duration should be one year.

D. Miscellaneous

Funding for these projects is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds and the evaluation of applications based on the criteria in this announcement.

EPA reserves the right to partially fund applications by funding discrete activities, portions, or phases of proposed projects. If EPA decides to partially fund an application, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the application, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process. Award of funding through this year's competition is not a guarantee of future funding.

EPA reserves the right to make additional awards under this announcement (after the original award selections are made) if additional funding becomes available. Any additional selections for awards will be made no later than 6 months after the original selection decisions. The additional selections must be made in accordance with the terms of this announcement and EPA policy.

EPA reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards under this announcement.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Recipients: Who may Apply?

All Federally-recognized Tribes, Tribal consortia, regional non-profit entities, States, Territories, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofit institutions which submit applications proposing projects with significant technical merit and relevance to EPA's mission, may apply. Some of EPA's statutes may limit assistance to specific types of interested applications. A Tribal consortium is defined as a partnership between two or more Tribes authorized by the governing bodies of those Tribes to apply for and receive assistance.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Applicants are not required to provide any share or match of project costs.

C. Eligibility Screening Requirements: Threshold Criteria

To be eligible for funding consideration under this announcement, applications must meet the following threshold criteria. Failure to meet any of the following criteria in the application will result in the automatic disqualification of the application for funding consideration. Ineligible applicants will be notified within 15 calendar days of the determination that they are ineligible based on the threshold criteria.

1. Projects must be for the benefit of Tribal communities in rural Alaska, and contribute to the long term sustainability of those communities.
2. Projects must build tribal capacity to reduce human health risks or environmental degradation in the Tribal communities of rural Alaska.
3. Place of Performance: Projects must be performed in Alaska.
4. Substantial Compliance language: Applications/Proposals must substantially comply with the application/proposal submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the proposal/application and/or parts of

the application/proposal, pages in excess of the page limitation will not be reviewed. **In addition, applications must be received by the EPA or through www.grants.gov on or before the solicitation closing date published in Section IV of this announcement.** Applications/Proposals received after the published closing date will be returned to the sender without further consideration.

5. Applications where the applicant is requesting in excess of \$250,000 or under \$15,000 will not be considered.
6. Applications from entities on the Debarred or Suspended list will not be considered.
7. Projects being proposed in Alaska Native villages must have Tribal government support. For applications submitted by Alaska Tribal governments, the signature from an authorized elected Tribal Official is sufficient. For other applications, Tribal Council resolutions specific to the project being proposed, or letters of support are accepted means of demonstrating support. Tribal government support is further addressed in Section IV of this announcement.

D. Funding Restrictions

EPA Grant or Cooperative Agreement funds may only be used for the purposes set forth in the Assistance Agreement, and must be consistent with the statutory authority for the award. Grant or Cooperative Agreement funds may not be used for matching funds for other Federal grants, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings, and may not be used to sue the Federal government or any other government entity.

Successful applicants must use a competitive process for obtaining contracts for services and products and conduct cost and price analyses to the extent required by federal, state or local procurement requirements. All contracts and the purchase of supplies and equipment must be conducted in a manner providing free and open competition, to the maximum extent practicable. As such, applicants should refrain from mentioning specific technology producers in their application project narratives or budgets unless they are sole source providers.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Application Submission Deadline

To be considered for funding, applications must be either:

- Submitted electronically via grants.gov **by 9:00 PM EDT, May 16, 2007**, or
- Received (in the Alaska Operations Office in Anchorage) **by 5:00 PM ADT, May 16, 2007.**

Applications submitted in any other manner will not be considered.

B. Application Materials

Regardless of the method of submittal, the following forms and documents are required under this Announcement:

1. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
2. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
3. EPA Key Contacts Form 5700-54
4. Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)
5. Certification Regarding Lobbying
6. EPA Form 4700-4 – Preaward Compliance Review Report
7. Project Narrative (Prepared in accordance with Section IV C)
8. Budget Narrative (Prepared in accordance with Section IV D)
9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL), if applicable
10. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if applicable

Note: Please note that a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be included on every SF 424. Applicants looking to obtain a DUNS number should call 1-866-705-5711 for information.

C. Project Narrative Requirements

Applicants must address the evaluation criteria in Section V. Project Narratives must also contain the required elements listed under numbers 1 through 5 below. They should be clear, concise, and created with one inch margins, using Times Roman or Arial Font. All pages should be numbered. Project narrative pages in excess of 20 pages will not be read.

1. Project Overview and Background Description to include:

- a. Description of geographic location;
- b. Statutory authority (citation if known);
- c. Description of a demonstrated Alaska Tribal environmental or human health issue;
- d. Description of immediate and long-term environmental outcomes. Applicants must submit a plan to track and measure the outputs and outcomes, as listed in Section I of this announcement;
- e. Description of how project results may be applied for the benefit of other Alaska Tribes and how those results will be communicated to other interested parties.
- f. Documentation of Tribal government support (see Section III C. 9, and Section V. A.3)

2. Workplan to contain:

- a.** Workplan components to be funded under the grant;
- b.** The estimated work years and estimated funding amounts for each workplan component (or objective);
- c.** The workplan commitments (or activities) for each workplan component, and a time frame for their accomplishment;
- d.** Identification of environmental results, including outputs and outcomes;
- e.** A performance evaluation process and reporting schedule as applicable in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 30.15, or 31.40 and 35.515; and
- f.** Description of applicant and EPA roles and responsibilities in carrying out the workplan commitments.

NOTE: Projects involving ground disturbing, precedent setting, or highly controversial activities will be subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When NEPA compliance is necessary, the proposed work plan must contain appropriate compliance activities, such as an environmental review, or the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All Agency requirements related to Quality Assurance must be met prior to implementation, if applicable.

3. Past Performance Discussion:

Submit a list of Federally funded assistance agreements that your organization has been awarded and performed within the last three years (no more than 5; preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate what problems you had, and how you plan to correct them, whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the narrative and you will receive a “neutral” score for this factor under Section V.

4. Programmatic Capability Discussion:

Submit a list of Federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization has been awarded and performed within the last three years (no more than 5; preferably EPA agreements) and describe whether, and how, you were: (1) able to successfully complete and manage those agreements; and (2) how your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency

grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the narrative, and you will receive a “neutral” score for these factors under Section V.

5. Demonstration of Tribal Support for the Project:

Projects being proposed in Alaska Native villages must have Tribal government support. For applications submitted by Alaska Tribal governments, the signature from an authorized elected Tribal Official is sufficient. For other applications, Tribal Council resolutions specific to the project being proposed, or support letters are accepted means of demonstrating support.

D. Budget Narrative

A detailed Budget Narrative, **broken out by federal object class categories** (see Application of Federal Assistance, Standard Form SF424A, Section B-Budget Categories of the Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs) and by commitment and component must be included in the application.

Budget narratives should be clear, concise and created with one inch margins.

E. Submission Options

Applicants may choose to submit applications either in hard copy (paper) format or through <http://www.grants.gov> with an electronic signature. Application instructions for both methods are detailed below. Please select one method. The closing date and time for applicants to submit applications under this announcement in grants.gov is **9:00 PM EDT, May 16, 2007**.

Applications submitted in hard-copy, as described below, must be received in the EPA Program Office via hand delivery, U.S. Postal Service, or express mail service by **5:00 PM ADT, May 16, 2007**. Late applications will not receive consideration.

1. Hard Copy Submission

Hard copy (paper) submission. Submit a complete application including all of the documents identified in **Section IV(B)** of this announcement. The complete application must be hand delivered, sent through regular mail, express mail, or courier to the EPA contact listed below, no later than 5:00 PM ADT, May 16, 2007. Paper submission must include one original application and two copies. Please take care to ensure EPA receipt of the application prior to the deadline.

Please submit the original application **and two copies** to:

US EPA, Alaska Operations Office
222 W. 7th Avenue, #19
Anchorage, AK 99513-7588
Attn: Santina Gay, Alaska Tribal Coordinator

The application package may be obtained by contacting Santina Gay at the Alaska Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit office at 1- 800-781-0983 if calling from within Alaska, or at (907) 271-3413 and via email at gay.santina@epa.gov, or by mail at EPA R10 Alaska Operations Office, 222 W 7th Ave. #19, Anchorage, AK 99513-7588.

Forms may also be accessed at

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/omp.nsf/webpage/Region+10+Grants:+Application+Forms+-+Required+and+Optional>

(This Region 10 resource provides information which would be useful to the full range of potential applicants for a variety of programs.)

2. Electronic Submission through www.grants.gov

Applications submitted electronically via Grants.gov must be **received** by grants.gov **no later than 9:00 PM EDT, May 16, 2007**.

If you wish to apply electronically via Grants.gov, the electronic submission of your proposal/application must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on “Get Registered” on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process under this grant announcement, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Apply for Grants” tab on the left side of the page. Then click on “Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions” to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package and instructions for applying under this announcement using grants.gov. You may retrieve the application package and instructions by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R10-AKTMM-2007, or the CFDA number (CFDA 66.ck with Janice Lee to see if there will be in problems with listing all four cfdas--), in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button “How To Apply” at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the “Find Grant Opportunities” button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities and use the Browse by Agency feature to go to EPA opportunities).

Application/proposal materials submitted through grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

Please be sure to view the additional instructions for applying electronically under this announcement through use of grants.gov that are available for download on Grants.gov. The full instructions are also included as ATTACHMENT B to this announcement.

If you have any technical difficulties while applying electronically, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

If you have never used www.grants.gov before, here are some tips.

Register your electronic signature early!

Most organizations have found Grants.Gov to be a user friendly system. The most frequent glitch has occurred when an organization has delayed obtaining the unique electronic signature to the last minute.

An electronic signature requires three levels of authorization before you can submit on line. You will need to decide who will be the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), the caretaker of the electronic signature for your organization. At a university the Chief Grant Official generally signs all of the electronic grants for the entire institution. If all goes well, this process can take as little as a week, but some organizations encounter internal and external delays that can slow things down quite a bit.

Remember, you can't submit your application online until your organization has e-authentication credentials. Here are the basic steps:

1. Certify your DUNS Number. You must first have a certified, unique Dun and Bradstreet Universal Data Numbering System (DUNS) number. Some organizations may have more than one DUNS number registered. This can lead to unanticipated delays. Only one number can be certified.

2. Central Contractor Registry and Credential Provider Registration. Once you have your unique, approved DUNS number, you need to register with the Central Contractor Registry.

3. Grants.Gov Electronic Signature Authorization. Once steps A and B are complete, you will then need to contact Grants.Gov. The Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) will be assigned password that will enable him or her to sign the Grants.Gov applications electronically. The AOR must be an individual who is able to make legally binding commitments for the applicant organization. Organizations may designate more than one AOR.

F. Confidentiality

In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their proposal as

confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark proposals or portions of the proposal they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

G. Pre-proposal/Application Assistance and Communications

In accordance with EPA's Assistance Agreement Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss draft proposals, provide informal comments on draft proposals, or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their applications. However, EPA will respond to questions in writing from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about the announcement.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Selection criteria

Each application will be awarded up to the number of points identified in accordance with the clarity and quality of the information provided.

- 1. Serious human health/environmental issue:** Project narrative addresses a specific and serious environmental or human health issue and describes the components and commitments to be undertaken to address the issue. **(20 points)**
- 2. Tracking and measuring progress:** Project narrative and/or workplan describes how recipient will track and measure progress toward achieving the expected outputs and outcomes identified in the workplan, and demonstrates the connection between components and commitment with resulting outputs and outcomes. (Helpful information and examples may be found at <http://r10.rgi.measuringresults>.) **(15 points)**
- 3. Tribal government(s) support:** For proposals from Alaska Tribal governments the signature from an authorized tribal government representative is sufficient. For other proposals, Alaska Tribal government council resolutions are the accepted means of demonstrating this support. **(15 points)**
- 4. Replicability:** Project narrative describes how project may be applied or adapted for the benefit of other Alaska Tribes and how those results will be communicated to other interested parties. **(15 points)**
- 5. Environmental Results Past Performance:** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and

outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not.

Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a “neutral” score of 5.0 for this factor. **(10 points)**

- 6. Programmatic Capability:** Under this criterion, applicants will be evaluated based on their ability to successfully complete and manage the proposed project taking into account the following factors: (i) its past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years, (ii) its history of meeting reporting requirements under federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under those agreements, (iii) its organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) its staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.

Note: In evaluating applicants under this criterion, the Agency will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance or reporting history (items i and ii above), will receive a “neutral” score of 7.5 for this criterion. **(15 points)**

- 7. Efficient and effective use of funds:** Budget narrative describes in 300 words or less how requested funds will be used efficiently and effectively to achieve the goals and objectives of the proposed project and budget provides detailed information of the cost and timeframe of each workplan component and commitment. **(10 points)**

B. Other Factors.

The Selection Committee, as described below, may consider the following other factors, in addition to the evaluation results based on the criteria above, in making final funding recommendations:

Geographic equity, variety of project types (i.e. solid waste demonstrations, sanitation, drinking water protection, air pollution) and diversity of methods, approaches and technologies.

C. Review and Selection Process.

1. **Evaluation Panel:** Each application will be evaluated by a panel of agency personnel chosen to ensure a broad range of technical expertise, familiarity with conditions in rural Alaska and grants management experience. Applications will first be reviewed to determine compliance with the eligibility requirements and threshold criteria. Each application which successfully meets the eligibility and threshold criteria will then be evaluated against the selection criteria stated above. This Evaluation Panel will base its evaluation solely on these criteria, will assign a point score to each application, and develop consensus scores for the Selection Committee to review.
2. **Selection Committee:** Completed evaluations will then be considered by a separately constituted Selection Committee with the highest evaluated applications, subject to the availability of funds, and consideration of the Other Factors described above, recommended for award.
3. **EPA Award Official:** The EPA Award Official is the only official that can bind the Agency to the expenditure of funds for selected projects resulting from this Announcement.
4. **Conflicts of Interest:** All members of the Evaluation Panel and Selection Committee will be required to sign a disclosure of conflict of interest form and will be removed from review of proposals where a real or potential conflict of interest exists and cannot be mitigated.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notices

1. Notification to successful applicant(s) regarding the status of applications will be made, via telephone, electronic or postal mail by June 15, 2007. This notification, which advises that the application has been recommended for award, is not an authorization to begin performance.

For applications selected for development by EPA, the award notice signed by the EPA Grants Officer is the authorizing document and will be provided through postal mail. At a minimum, this process can take **up to 90 days** from the date of recommendation.

Note: Nonprofit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement may be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8, *'EPA Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards'*. The EPA Order can be found at http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf

2. EPA anticipates notification to unsuccessful applicant(s) will be made via electronic or postal mail **no later than June 12, 2007**.
3. All Notices under this Section will be sent to the original signer of the application.

B. Disputes

Competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005), which can be found at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm> A copy of these procedures may also be obtained by contacting the agency contact in Section VII.

C. Award Requirements

Those receiving an award must comply with the following:

Regulations governing the awards made pursuant to this request can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 30 (for non-profits, hospitals and universities), Part 31 (for State, Local, and Tribal governments), and Part 35, Subpart B (for Tribal governments and Tribal consortia).

Quarterly Performance Reports are required and will be due within 30 days of the end of each fiscal quarter. Recipients must report progress under the workplan, including environmental outcomes and milestones. Additionally, reports must describe any problems with completing the tasks under the workplan and the recipient's plan for resolving these problems. Cumulative expenditure reports must also be provided on a quarterly basis. Please have all original signatures in blue ink.

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) are required and must be submitted within 90 days of the anniversary of each project year (interim FSRs) and a Final FSR must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the project period.

SF-272 Federal Cash Transactions Reports are required.

Additional reports and documents: An annual performance report, annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Report, Quality Assurance Project Plan (required to be submitted and approved by EPA prior to any sampling), and/or project outputs may also be required to be submitted under the terms and conditions of the grant.

Compliance with OMB Circulars: All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Circulars. Copies of the circulars can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>. In certain circumstances costs incurred prior to the grant award **may** be eligible for reimbursement; however, this does not include any costs associated with responding to this solicitation or in finalizing the application package. If costs

are incurred before the award without approval, they are incurred at the applicant's or grantee's own risk.

To the extent required by Federal, state, and local laws, successful applicants must abide by the competition requirements for all procurements under grants (this includes contracts for goods and services). Successful applicants must also conduct a price and cost analyses to the extent required by federal, state, or local procurement requirements before awarding any contracts.

VII. AGENCY CONTACTS

Questions should be directed to Santina Gay, Alaska Tribal Coordinator at 1-800-781-0983 or via email at gay.santina@epa.gov

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

For additional grant resources and information, see Attachment A. Following information contained in Attachment A. in no way guarantees funding.

If commonly asked questions arise, questions and answers to these types of questions will be posted to the Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit's website in the same location as the initial Announcement.

Any modifications to this Announcement will be posted in the same manner as the original Announcement.

This is a **competitive grant program** and is subject to the EPA Grants Competition Policy, EPA Order 5700.5A1.